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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [EC](#) [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#)

SUBJECT: CORREA DECLARES "STATE OF EXCEPTION" IN THREE CITIES TO  
COMBAT CRIME

¶1. (SBU) On September 30, 2009, President Rafael Correa signed Presidential Decree #82, putting into effect a state of exception for the cities of Quito, Guayaquil, and Manta. The state of exception allows for the Ecuadorian Armed Forces to collaborate and support the Ecuadorian National Police in operations to combat crime and in operations to control arms and vehicles within the cities of Quito, Guayaquil, and Manta. The decree will be in effect for 60 days and does not suspend any citizens' rights.

¶2. (SBU) The decree is in response to the high number of criminal incidents that have occurred in the aforementioned cities and provides additional manpower and support to the Ecuadorian National Police. The decree also names the Minister of Government and Police as responsible for the coordination of the action between the Armed Forces and Police.

¶3. (SBU) Comment: It is not believed that the state of exception is a response to the recent nationwide protests carried out by indigenous groups which has seen some violent confrontations between the Ecuadorian National Police and protesters. Recent comments by Minister of Government and Police Jalkh indicate the state of exception is specifically in response to the increased numbers of homicides and express kidnappings recently seen in Quito, Guayaquil, and Manta. It is anticipated that these cities will see a substantial increase in police checkpoints, with the security forces establishing a stronger presence throughout. This increased presence may have a temporary deterrent effect in regards to the high levels of crime, but it is unlikely that this collaboration between the Ecuadorian Armed Forces and the Ecuadorian National Police will tackle the numerous factors which create a soaring level of insecurity throughout Ecuador. End Comment.

HODGES